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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/701,194 | 11/27/2000 | Nicolae Marius Busuioc | 36-1367 | 7759 |
| 23117 | 7590 | 09/22/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714 | | | | BRUCKART, BENJAMIN R. |
| | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | 2155 | | |

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/701,194 Examiner Benjamin R Bruckart | BUSUIOC, NICOLAE MARIUS Art Unit 2155 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 7-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 7-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

Status of Claims:

Claims 7-17 are pending in this Office Action.

Claims 1-6, 18-26 are cancelled.

The objection on claims 1-6 is withdrawn in light of the applicant's amendment.

The 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection is withdrawn from claims 4 and 14 in light of applicant's amendment.

Claims 7-17 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,931,907 by Davies et al.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed in the amendment filed 7/29/04, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The reasons are set forth below.

Applicant's invention as claimed:

Regarding claim 7, a distributed platform for coordinating user access to information provided by content service providers (Davies: col. 1, lines 28-40), the platform comprising:

- (a) a user interface (Davies: col. 3, lines 25-35, 41-45);
- (b) a first advertising board for advertising services of information brokers (Davies: col. 4, lines 38-44; web page);
- (c) a first searching agent for searching the first advertising board for services based on the request from the user (Davies: col. 4, lines 30-44; jasper agent searches the page);

(d) a second advertising board for advertising the services of information content suppliers (Davies: col. 4, lines 3-44);

(e) a second searching agent for searching the second advertising board for available services based on results of the search of the first advertising board and the request from the user (Davies: col. 4, lines 58- col. 5, line 13; see below), and

(f) means for providing the results of the search of the second advertising means to the user (Davies: col. 5, lines 54-59).

Regarding claim 8, a distributed platform as in claim 7, wherein the first and second advertising boards are distributed (Davies: col. 2, lines 9-11; col. 1, lines 57-63).

Regarding claim 9, a distributed platform as in claim 7, wherein a plurality of first and second advertising boards are provided each of which advertises the services available in a particular market (Davies: col. 2, lines 19-31; col. 4, lines 38-44).

Regarding claim 10, a distributed platform as in claim 7, wherein means are provided for interrogating the user to determine specific preferences (Davies: col. 3, lines 65-67; col. 4, lines 1-8).

Regarding claim 11, a distributed platform as in claim 10, wherein the specific preferences comprise where and/or how and/or when the information found by the second searching means, is to be communicated to the user (Davies: col. 6, lines 34-55).

Regarding claim 12, a distributed platform as in claim 7, wherein a banking agent is provided for monitoring all financial transactions that take place as a result of the request from the user, between the information brokers and the information content suppliers (Davies: col. 2, lines 19-31; col. 4, lines 38-44).

Regarding claim 13, a distributed platform as in claim 12, wherein each user has an account that is monitored by the banking agent is up-dated as soon as response to a

request for information is accepted for delivery to the user (Davies: col. 3, lines 51-65; col. 5, lines 60- col. 6, line 7).

Regarding claim 14, a distributed platform as in claim 1, wherein a marketing agent is provided for setting up the first and second advertising boards and subsequent boards introduced onto the platform (Davies: col. 1, lines 57-63).

Regarding claim 15, a distributed platform as in claim 14, wherein the marketing agent arranges the boards according to the type of services being marketed thereon (Davies: col. 5, lines 1-29; the agent can index the info from metadata; col. 7, lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 16, a distributed platform for coordinating user access to information provided by content service providers (Davies: col. 1, lines 28-40), the platform comprising:

- (a) a user interface (Davies: col. 3, lines 25-35, 41-45);
- (b) a content service provider advertising board for advertising services of content service providers (Davies: col. 4, lines 38-44; page in question);
- (c) a first searching agent for searching the content service provider advertising board for services, based on the request from the user (Davies: col. 4, lines 30-44); and
- (d) means for providing the results of the search of the content service provider advertising board to the user (Davies: col. 5, lines 54-59).

Regarding claim 17, a distributed platform for coordinating user access to information provided by content service provider (Davies: col. 1, lines 28-40), the platform comprising:

- (a) a user interface (Davies: col. 3, lines 25-35, 41-45);
- (b) a content service provider advertising board for advertising services of content service providers (Davies: col. 4, lines 30-44; jasper agent searches the page);

(c) a first searching agent for searching the content service provider advertising board for services, based on the request from the user (Davies: col. 4, lines 30-44; see below);

(d) means for providing the results of the search of the content service provider advertising board to the user (Davies: col. 5, lines 54-59);

(e) a broker advertising board for advertising the services of brokers that act as intermediaries between the content service provider and the user (Davies: col. 4, lines 38-44; col. 6, lines 34-40); and

(f) a second searching agent for searching the broker advertising board for available services based on the request from the user (Davies: col. 6, lines 34-40), wherein the second searching agent identifies a suitable broker and the first searching agent is associated with that identified broker (Davies: col. 6, lines 34-40; see below).

The Applicant Argues:

With respect to claim 7, applicant argues the Davies reference does not disclose:

- 1) "a first searching agent for searching a first advertising board for services based on a user request"
- 2) "the first advertising board advertising services of information brokers."

In response, the examiner respectfully submits:

The Davies reference does teach the above limitations. The Davies teaches a searching agent as the Jasper agent. The jasper agent searches the IPS in a manner by keyword to locate information as directed to by the user (Davies: col. 5, lines 31-60). Information brokers are sources in which information is processed and dealt out as an intermediary. The IPC is an information broker in which information is summarized, analyzed, and annotated (Davies: col. 4, lines 37-61).

With respect to claim 16, applicant argues the presence of "a first searching agent for searching the content service provider advertising board for services based on a user

request" and "the content service provider advertising board advertising services of content service provider."

In response, the examiner respectfully submits:

The Davies reference does teach the above limitations. The Davies teaches a plurality of software agents, that a user can access information through the agent. Using keywords the agent can identify information to be stored in a page store (Davies: col. 1, lines 28-41). The first agent is defined as the Jasper agent as described as an information retrieval software agent on behalf of the user (Davies: col. 3, lines 51-55). The agent searches a webpage. The IPS is for storing information searched for and found by the agent that is specified by the user for extraction (Davies: col. 4, lines 22-36). In this limitation the searching agent is the Jasper agent. The content service provider advertising board are the W3 file servers or web servers in which the data is extracted from.

With respect to claim 1, applicant argues the presence of a "second searching agent for searching the second advertising board for available services based on results of the search."

In response, the examiner respectfully submits:

The Davies reference teaches a plurality of agents (Davies: col. 1, lines 27-41). The file servers carrying web pages are accessed by Jasper agents for extraction, formatting, and are then summarized for the data (Davies: col. 3, lines 23-35; col. 4, lines 37-44).

Further the examiner suggests further defining the advertising boards and services in which the agent operates on. The breadth of the claim is too broad in light of the claim language.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin R Bruckart whose telephone number is (703) 305-0324. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:30PM with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Benjamin R Bruckart
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

BLO
brb
September 17, 2004

M. Leem
HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER